

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: NEW PC LEADER'S VIEWS ON US

REF: OTTAWA 694

1. VIEWS OF NEW PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER JOE CLARK ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ARE AS LITTLE KNOWN AS MOST OTHER THINGS ABOUT HIM (AVAILABLE BIO INFO FOLLOWS SEPTEL). INDICATIONS OF HIS ATTITUDE ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, PARTICULARLY HIGHLY FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD US, DID HOWEVER EMERGE IN COURSE OF PC CONVENTION.

2. IN "POLICY SESSION" ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS FEB. 20 ATTENDED BY EMBOFF, CLARK RESPONDED TO NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING US. ANSWERING LEAD QUESTION CONCERNING "PORTER INCIDENT," CLARK SAID PORTER'S COMMENTS VALID SINCE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ACTED IN MISGUIDED WAY TO INCREASE IRRITANTS IN US-CANADIAN RELATIONSHIP. HE ADDED THAT CANADA MUST NOT FORGET THAT US IS CANADA'S CLOSEST FRIEND AND ALLY AND RELATIONSHIP MUST BE MAINTAINED WITH THAT FUNDAMENTAL FACT IN MIND. ANOTHER QUESTION ON GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF TIME/ READER'S DIGEST LEGISLATION EVOKED CLARK REPLY THAT HE WAS ENTIRELY OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF
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THE SITUATION AND TO THE DISCRIMINATORY THRUST OF THE EFFORT. SIMILARLY, CLARK SAID THAT HE WAS OPPOSED

TO SASKATCHEWAN EFFORTS TO TAKE OVER POTASH INDUSTRY
ALTHOUGH HE DID MENTION FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL RELATION-
SHIP AS IMPOSING CONSTRAINTS IN HANDLING MATTER.

3. ON DEFENSE, CLARK STATED THAT CANADA WAS NOT
DEVOTING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO ITS ARMED FORCES
AND MENTIONED NATO AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHERE CANADA WAS
NOT BEARING ITS SHARE OF COMMON DEFENSE: "ONLY
LUXEMBOURG MAKES A SMALLER CONTRIBUTION THAN WE DO--
AN ARMY OF 400 AND 100 OF THEM ARE IN THE BAND." HE
HAD PARTICULARLY STRONG WORDS ON UN, CITING INEFFECTIVENESS
OF THAT ORGANIZATION AND VALIDITY OF AMB. MOYNIHAN'S APPROACH.
HE WENT SO FAR AS TO STATE THAT CANADA SHOULD PULL OUT OF
THE UN BUT WE UNDERSTAND HE LATER CLARIFIED THIS SAYING PULL-
OUT ONLY MATTER OF LAST RESORT.

4. COMMENT: RULE OF THUMB IN CANADIAN POLITICS IS
FOR GOVERNMENT IN POWER TO PURSUE PRO-CANADIAN
POLICIES THAT LEND THEMSELVES TO ANTI-AMERICAN INTER-
PRETATION, AND FOR PARTY IN OPPOSITION TO ADOPT CONTRASTING
PRO-AMERICAN STANCE. BE THAT AS IT MAY AND WITH RECOGNITION
THAT STATEMENTS REFERRED TO IN POLICY SESSION REPRESENT
SLIM EVIDENCE, CLARK GAVE EVERY APPEARANCE OF BEING STRONGLY
PRO-AMERICAN NEARLY ACROSS THE BOARD. HE MADE NONE OF THE
QUALIFYING NATIONALISTIC JABS TO US COMMON EVEN TO
CANADIAN OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, AND THE CONTENT OF
HIS RESPONSES AND METHOD OF DELIVERY SUGGESTED THAT
HE AND HIS ADVISERS HAD THOUGHT OUT POSITIONS BEFORE-
HAND.
ENDERS

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